

and pursuing civil service. It is my hope, that in this tribute, I can draw a bit of a picture to describe the kind of life that Red Blount lived.

During the 1960s civil rights movements, the State of Alabama was home to some tumultuous times. When Governor George Wallace blocked integration into the University of Alabama, Red Blount calmly and constructively worked with U.S. Attorney General Robert Kennedy and Governor Wallace to keep the peace and allow African-American students into the University. Blount, at that time, served as a member of the University's Board of Trustees, and, more importantly, served as a voice of reason during a time when reasonable voices were few and far between.

As a businessman, Blount was straight-forward, hard working, and honest in his practices. He founded Blount Brothers and quickly developed a reputation for delivering products on time and without unexpected costs. Blount's company can be credited with building the launch pad at the Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, FL, which sent the first space flight to the moon. Blount Brothers also built the Nation's first ballistic missile site, the New Orleans Superdome, and international projects including King Saud University, near Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

Since I can remember, Red was a dedicated civil servant and a devoted member of the Republican Party. Known as Mr. Republican, he wanted to make a difference in Alabama and across the Nation. In 1960, Red headed up then-Vice President Richard Nixon's unsuccessful bid for the presidency as his southeastern campaign chairman. In 1968, Red became president of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, and then he went on to serve as President Richard Nixon's Postmaster General. In this capacity, he advocated for and implemented massive reform, making the postal service less political and more efficient. Red even threw his hat into the ring for a bid to the U.S. Senate in 1972. Unfortunately, he lost, but there is no question that he would've made a great Senator.

Among Red Blount's many business and political achievements, having a family was his most important accomplishment. His five children are grown and successful in their own right, and there is no question that Blount instilled a strong work ethic into them and fostered their ability to succeed in whatever they chose to do. Blount's family expanded when he married his second wife, Carolyn Self Varner Blount, and he became step father to her two children. They enjoyed gathering at the holidays with all the children and grandchildren in the extended Blount family.

One of the things that Alabamians will remember most about Red Blount was his love of the arts. In 1982, Red discovered that the Alabama Shakespeare Festival, of which his wife, Carolyn served on the board, was very

much in debt. He was able to assist them with their financial difficulties by building a theater on the 250-acre grounds behind his home. This became Montgomery's Blount Cultural Park, and the theater was named for his wife.

The theater grew with the support of State grants, but mostly because of the investment that Red and Carolyn made in it. They made nearly \$15 million in donations of art work, which encouraged the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts, which was looking to change locations, to move to the park grounds. The park continued to grow with gardens and an amphitheater, and Blount expanded the land by buying more acres. He made contributions totaling \$21.5 million to the Alabama Shakespeare Festival, which remains the single-largest gift ever given to a regional theater in the country.

Blount's philanthropic heart turned Montgomery into a leading cultural center. Had Red and Carolyn not made the financial and creative investment, the theater, museum, and park would not be what it is today. They helped to create a priceless treasure for the area, encouraging the young and old to experience the arts.

There aren't too many people in the world who loved life as much as Red did. He was the kind of person we all want to be, and the State of Alabama is a better place for having Red Blount as part of our history. We are all grateful to Red and his family for giving so much of themselves, and allowing Red to leave us with a wonderful legacy we will never forget.●

TRIBUTE TO COMMANDER JUDI JO ROGERS

● Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize a great American and a true military heroine who has honorably served our country for 22 years in the Navy Nurse Corps: CDR Judi J. Rogers. Commander Rogers began her career as a staff nurse at Naval Medical Center, San Diego, CA. She quickly rose through the ranks and served at Naval bases throughout the world, including Naval Hospital Okinawa, Japan, Naval Hospital Long Beach, CA, National Naval Medical Center Bethesda, MD, and Naval Medical Center Portsmouth, VA. Following in her father's footsteps, the late LCDR Kenneth Rogers, USN, Retired, Commander Rogers served aboard combatant ships independently providing anesthesia services as a certified registered nurse anesthetist, CRNA, to the sailors and marines aboard the U.S.S. *Theodore Roosevelt*, CVN-71, and the U.S.S. *WASP*, LHD-1, during all under-way periods including two 6-month Mediterranean deployments. She was then assigned as the first woman to serve as the Assistant Group Surgeon for Combatant Amphibious Assault Group Two. In each assignment, Commander Rogers excelled and met every challenge, and was rewarded with greater responsibilities and opportunities.

Her talent for teaching and mentoring personnel, as well as her creativity and skill in management, were instrumental in providing Military Medicine the cadre of CRNAs serving today. As an advanced cardiac life support, ACLS, instructor, Commander Rogers continually supported mission readiness by providing ACLS courses to hundreds of active duty and reserve troops, and trauma skills and training vital for battlefield survival of our troops. Above all, she is a stellar leader and a compassionate nurse who always put the welfare of her staff and patients first.

Commander Rogers is a committed health care professional who has positively influenced the practice of nursing nationally. She is an active member of the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists, AANA. A faculty member for AANA's Education and Research Foundation since 1988, Commander Rogers personally provided 18 Special Epidural Workshops to 450 CRNAs across the country. She also authored a chapter of AANA's official text, *The Clinical Techniques of Regional Anesthesia*, titled "Acute Pain Management." Commander Rogers always went the extra mile to serve her country and her fellow man. Her performance reflects greatly on herself, the U.S. Navy, the Department of Defense, and the United States of America. I extend my deepest appreciation to Commander Rogers on behalf of a grateful nation for her dedicated military service. Congratulations and I wish you Godspeed.●

TRIBUTE TO PAT KELLER

● Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to one of Kentucky's finest educators. Pat Keller, a music teacher at Potter Gray Elementary School, was recently named Kentucky Elementary Music Teacher of the Year by the Kentucky Music Educators Association.

Pat Keller has done more than teach her south central Kentucky students the concepts of music. Through Pat's 15 years as an educator, her efforts have instilled a sense of self-confidence that her students have benefitted from well beyond the classroom. Pat's students have gained the same respect and love for music that their teacher has and have also been given the self-assurance to contribute to the field of music.

I am glad that Pat Keller chose to be a teacher in the Commonwealth of Kentucky and it is a source of great pride to call attention to her excellence. Her contributions have made all the difference in the lives of her students.

The citizens from the Potter Gray Elementary School community are fortunate to call Pat Keller one of their own. They should be privileged to be served by such a fine educator. Her example should be followed by teachers across Kentucky.●